Decontrolling the Prices of Dilosyn etc.

634. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the "Nav Bharat Times" of 8th February, 1988 captioned 'Mehingi Ho Gai Dawaian';

(b) if so, whether Government have decontrolled the prices of Dilosyn, Benadryl, Celin and many other medicines under the Drugs Price Control Order 1987;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all these medicines have an annual sales turnover between one crore to six crore each; and

(d) if so, what is the justification for such decontrol and increase in prices of medicines used by the common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Formulations Dilosyn, Benadryl and Celin are price decontrolled as per provisions of DPCO, 1987.

(c) Sales turnover of formulations is not monitored.

(d) Dilosyn and Benadryl are based on bulk drugs Methdilazine and Diphenhydramine respectively which were not included by the Kelkar Committee in the list of Category II bulk drugs recmmended for price control. Celin being a single ingredient, vitamin formulation is exempted from price control. Manufacturers of non-scheduled formulations are free to revise the prices of their products as per provisions of DPCO, 1987. However, a watch is being kept on prices of decontrolled medicines also.

Mechanism for Monitoring the Prices of Medicines

635. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government announced in December, 1986 to set up an effective mechanism for the monitoring of the prices of decontrolled medicines under the measures for rationalisation, quality control and growth of Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry in India; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the decontrolled medicines where price increase has come to the notice of Government during the last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) To the extent available, the details of increase in the prices of non-scheduled formulations after the announcement of DPCO, 1987, are given in the Statement at annexure. [*See* Appendix CXLV, Annexure No. 26].

Rise in the Prices of Medicines

636. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of a number of decontrolled medicines have gone up from 50 per cent to 200 per cent during the last one month or so;

(b) if so, what is the justification for such a steep increase; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to safeguard the interests of the poor consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The extent of in-